

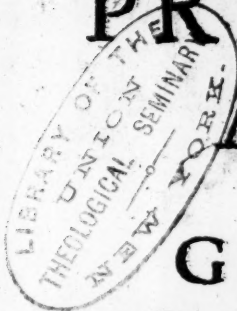
THE
PRINCIPALL
ACTS
OF THE
GENERALL
ASSEMBLY
CONVEENED AT
EDINBURGH,

Upon the last WEDNESDAY of May
The 29. of that MONETH,
in the year 1644.



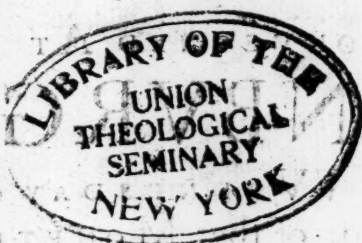
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THE
PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF
THE
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



NOV 27 1904



**THE
GENERALL
ASSEMBLY,**
At EDINBURGH, 1644.

Die Fovis penult. Maii. Sess. II.

*The Letter from the Presbyterie which is
with the Army in England, to the
Generall Assembly.*

RIGHT REVEREND,

HAVING the opportunity of the sitting of this
Venerable Assembly, wee thought our
selves obliged to render some accompt of
the estate of our Affaires. It hath pleased
the Lord to exercise us since our out-
coming, with many straits and difficulties, yet in the mids
thereof hee hath wonderfully upheld and carried us

through. The depth of his wisdom hath suspended us for a time from any great action, to make us walke humbly before him, and to keepe us in a continuall dependance upon himselfe: And yet he hath by his own power scattered before us the great Popish Army, and much diminished the number thereof, so that they doe not now appeare against us in the Fields; that all may learne to trust in G O D, and not in Man. It was far from our thoughts and intentions to have come this length at that instant when the course of Divine Providence pointed out our way unto us, which led us on by some long and speedy marches to joyne with my Lord *Fairfax* and his Sonne their Forces. The Citie of *York*, wherein a swarme of obstinate Papiests have taken sanctuary, is blocked up; and now and then God favoureth us with successe in some enterprises about it, and we look for more, if the time be come which he hath appointed for the deliverance of this People.

Our Soules doe abhorre the treacherous attempts of our disnated Countrey-men, that have endeavoured to make their native Kingdome a seat of Warre, and our bowels within us are moved to think upon the main mischiefes, if not timeously prevented, that may follow upon the unnaturall Warres there; like unto these under which this Kingdome hath groaned for a long time. We have found none more malicious and cruell against us than these of our owne Nation, and we measure those at home by these here; *Cursed be their rage, for it is fierce, and their anger, for it is cruell.* The present danger calls upon all to lay out of their hands what ever may hinder their haste, as one man to come together for digging the Vine-yard that the wilde Boares would lay waste, and taking the Foxes that would destroy the Vines.

Vines. You are, right Reverend, now set upon the highest Watch-tower, from whence you may discover the dangers that threaten on all coasts, and we need not put you in minde to give warning to the Watch-men in their severall stations, to rouse up the People from their too great security; to call them to unfeigned Humiliation, and to stirre them up to wrestle with God by prayer; that hee would preserve Truth and Peace at home against the machinations of Malignants; that he would prepare the People here, and make them more fit to embrace the intended Reformation; and that he would command these unnaturall and bloody Wars to cease, that Religion and Righteousnesse may flourish through the three Dominions. Praying God to send upon you the Spirit of Truth, who may lead you in all truth, We remaine

*Middle-thorp, 20 Maii
1644.*

*Your loving Brethren, The Pres-
byterie of the Scottish Army
in England,*

Master ROBERT DOUGLAS
Moderator in their name.

The

The Petition from the distressed Christians in the North of Ireland.

To the Reverend and Honourable Moderator
and remanent Members of the Generall As-
sembly of Scotland, conveyened at Edinburgh in
May 1644.

*The humble Petition of the distressed Christians in
the North of Ireland.*

Humbly sheweth,



HAT whereas your former enlarged bounty, and our present overflowing straits would require a gratefull acknowledgement of the one, and a serious representation of the other: Our case is such, as neither can be expected at our hands, being stricken with astonishment, and full of the fury of the Lord. We are these indeed who have seene affliction by the rod of his wrath: So that it were more fit, we had a Cottage in the Wildernesse amongst the Owles to mourne out our imbittered Spirits, then that by word or writ we should compeere before any of his People: Although you cannot bee wearied in wel-doing, yet we shall no way think it strange, if now you shall give over any more care of us: Seeing the Lord hath testified against us, and the Almighty hath afflicted us. Your judgement is with the Lord, and your

reward is with God, not onely for your two years visiting and watering a barren vineyard, but also for your zeale and care to have your Reformation spread amongst other oppressed and born-downe Churches, whereof you have given an ample and famous testimony in sending hither that blessed League and Covenant which wee much desired and longed for, as by our Petitions to the Church and State of our Native Kingdome is knowne unto you; which hath had a wished and gracious successe by the favour and blessing of God, accompanying the paines of these to whom the tendering thereof was intrusted by you. And we conceiving a chiefe part of our misery to consist in our want of opportunity to joyn our selves with the People of God in the foresaid League, Esteeming our selves rejected of God and unfit to be joined in any comfortable fellowship in the Gospel with them, when the said League and Covenant was presented to the Regiments, We made bold to lay hold upon the opportunity (though afflicted abjects) and cheerfully and unanimously joyned our selves thereunto: That if we perish in our misery, we may dye a Covenanted People; and, if our miserable life be prolonged, we may find shelter and refreshment under the shadow thereof in our fierie trials; confidently expecting from the Lord by our neerer conjunction with you than of before, an accomplishment of what is agreed into the Covenant, which ye bountifully expressed before we were one with you, to your never-dying commendation. Wee are nothing shaken in our mindes with the odious aspersions of sedition, combination against the King, and overthrow of Municipall Laws, &c. (wherewith our Covenant is branded) nor with the

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threats,

threats of these who should be comfortable to us in our troubles: But are the more incouraged to beleeeve that God shall raise up the Tabernacle of *David* that is fallen, and repaire the breaches thereof: For, since wee Covenanted with God, and united our selves together, our dying spirits have revived, and we sing like these who have come forth from their Graves, for God hath had mercy on *Iacob*: In testimony whereof he hath opened the bowels of the Churches of *Holland*, who were strangers to us, and yet deare Brethren, and tender Sympathizers with our afflictions and sorrowes, who, when these who were left of the Sword were in danger to dye by famine, did plentifully relieve us in our straits, not onely by comfortable encouragements to walke humbly with God, and wait for him who hides his face from the house of *Iacob* for a season; but also by their rich supply in Viſtuals and others necessary for our reliefe and comfort, which we humbly desire our Lord to repay seven-fold in their bosome, and become your Supplicants to joyne with us in a gratefull acknowledgement of their singular favours: And upon the heeles of these favours you have continued your unparalleled compassions in keeping your forces and enabling them, together with the other Forces, for avenging the cruell murders, and effusion of Christian blood in this Land, notwithstanding of your owne multiplied difficulties. The Lord hath begun to delight in to us, and in a day of salvation hath helped us, (So happy are the people who are in Covenant with God.) We are these (indeed) who may justly bee burnt up for our unfruitfulnesse in the days of our plenty, and stubbornnesse in the dayes of our affliction, which hath brought

us so low, that where we once enjoyed a blessed plenty, we must now beg of the crumbs that fall from your Table: We cannot dissemble, but so farre as wee can discerne our owne hearts, we would preferre the joyfull sound of the Gospel to our much wished Peace and precious lives: But it may be discerned, your Consultations of before have been guided by the Spirit of the Lord; in that when we twice in our forward hasting desires begged the present loosening and planting of some Ministers amongst us, you judged it more convenient to supply us by turnes, as foreseeing that our Captivity was likely to endure: Our hopes are so far revived, that we trust to see the day when he shall take the Cup of trembling out of our hands, and put it in the hands of them that afflicted us.

And therefore, if you account us fellow-partners of the Purchased Inheritance, yet againe suffer our needfitie to plead with you, that as it hath beene by the Committee of Bills already advised, that a competent number of Ministers may be gifted to us by your Commission when they shall see the Calling cleared, the same may be granted as a testimony of your confidence, and expectation of our delivery; And in the meane time some others may be sent by turnes to keepe in the dying lives of above twenty four desolate Congregations, who are in danger to perish for want of Visitation: And although we doe professe, we count not our selves worthy of such favours, yet as wee have resolved to dye with the cry of hope in our mouthes to the Lords Throne; So in obedience of the use of the meanes by him appointed, we stretch out our hearts and our hands to you for helpe, and have sent our Brother William

Mackenna Merchant at Belfast, to attend what answer it shall please the Lord by you to returne unto

*Your distressed Brethren
and Supplicants.*

Subscribed by very many hands.

3. Junii 1644. Ante meridiem. Sess. V.

Act for the present Entry of the new erected Presbyterie at Biggar.



He which day anent the Supplication subscribed and given in to the General Assembly by the Ministers and ruling Elders of the Kirks of *Biggar, Skirling, Brochton, Glenquhome, Kelbocho, Culter, Lamyngtoun, Symontoun, Covingtoun, Quothquen, Welstoun, and Dolphingtoun*, making mention, That the Generall Assembly at *Edinburgh* in August 1643. years, by their Act of the date of the twelfth day of the samine moneth and yeare, did upon good grounds, and after tryall and hearing of all Parties to the full, erect a Presbyterie seat at *Biggar*, to consist of the Kirks above written; And granted to their Presbyterie full

full power of jurisdiction and exerceing Discipline, with all other Liberties and Priviledges belonging to any other Presbyterie, but suspended the entry and possession of this new erected Presbytery, during the pleasure of the Assembly: And therefore desiring the said Generall Assembly to ordaine and appoint the entrie and possession of the foresaid Presbyterie at *Biggar*, now presently; And to declare, that it is their pleasure, that the entry and possession thereof shall be no longer suspended, as the Supplication proports. Which Supplication being read in audience of the Generall Assembly, and thereafter the Commissioners from the Presbyteries of *Lanerk* and *Peebles*, and all others having entresse to oppose the desire foresaid being publickly called, and the saids Commissioners for *Peebles* and *Lanerk* personally present, being at length heard in what they could say or alledge therein: And the said Supplication and desire thereof, with the Alledgeances and Objections made against the same, being taken to consideration by the Assembly, and they therewith being fully and ripely advised: The Assembly after removing of the Parties, and after consideration of the premisses, and voicing of the foresaid desire, Ordaines the entrie and possession of the foresaid Presbyterie of *Biggar*, consisting of the particular Kirks above-mentioned, to begin now presently; And appoints and ordaines all the Ministers and Ruling Elders of the foresaid Kirks above specified, whereof the said Presbyterie consists, to meet and conveene as a Presbyterie, with all convenience, at the said Kirk of *Biggar*, which is the Place and Seat of the same Presbyterie. And the Assembly referres to the Commissioners to be ap-

pointed by them for the publick affaires of the Kirke, to determine to what Synod this the said new erected Presbyterie shall be subordinate; As also to prescribe the order and solemnities that shall be necessar for entering and possessing the Ministers and Elders in the said Presbyterie.

Junii 3. 1644. Sess. VI.

*Act concerning the Declaration subscribed
by the Scottish Lords at Oxford.*



He Generall Assembly having received a Copy of a Declaration, made and subscribed at *Oxford*, sent unto them from the honourable Convention of Estates, and having seriously considered the tenour thereof, doth finde the same to be a perfidious Band and unnaturall confederacy, to bring this Kirk and Kingdome to confusion, and to be full of blasphemies against the late solemn League and Covenant of the three Kingdomes, of vile aspersions of Treason, Rebellion and Sedition, most falsly and impudently imputed to the Estates and the most faithfull and loyall Subjects of these Kingdomes: And seeing it is incumbent to the Assembly to take notice thereof, and to stop the course of these malicious intentions, in so farre as concernes them, Declare that the subscribers of this or the like Declaration or Band, or
any

any that have beene accessorie to the framing, or that has beene, or shall be accessory to the execution thereof, deserve the highest censure of the Kirk: And therefore gives power to the Commissioners of this Assembly appointed for the publick affairs, to proceed against them to the sentence of Excommunication, unlessse they make humble confession of their offence publicly, in such manner, and in such places as the Commission shall prescribe; Or otherwise to refer the triall and censure of such Delinquents to Presbyteries or Synods as they shall think convenient. And when the sentence of Excommunication shall be pronounced, discharges Presbyteries or Synods to relax any from the sentence, without the advice of the Generall Assembly, or their Commissioners, *nisi in extremis*. And in respect of the atrocity of this fact, the Assembly in all humility, do seriously recommend to the right honourable the Estates of Parliament to take such course, as the persons that shall be found guilty, may be exemplarily punished, according to the merit of so unnaturall and impious an offence: And that some publick note of ignominy be put upon the Declaration and Band it selfe, if their Honours shall think it meet.

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*Act against the Rebels in the North and
South of the Kingdome.*



He Generall Assembly considering the just sentence pronounced against the principall Actors in that Rebellion in the North and South, by ordinance of the Commissioners of the late Assembly; And finding it most necessary, that such as assisted or joyned with them in that impious and unnaturall Fact, be likewise censured; Therefore ordains Presbyteries and Synods *respective*, to proceed against them with the highest Censures of the Kirk, if they give not satisfaction by publick repentance; And when the sentence of Excommunication shall be pronounced, the Assembly discharges the said Judicatories to relax any of them from the sentence, without the advice of the Generall Assembly, or their Commissioners, *nisi in extremis*: To whom also the saids Presbyteries and Synods shall be answerable for their diligence in the premisses as they shall be required. And the Assembly doth humbly recommend to the Honourable Estates of Parliament, to take such course as the Persons that shall be found guilty may be exemplarily punished according to the merit and degree of their offence.

*Act against secret disaffecteds of
the Covenant.*



He Generall Assembly understanding that divers persons dis-affected to the Nationall Covenant of this Kirk, and to the Solemnne League and Covenant of the three Kingdomes, do escape their just censure, either by their private and unconstant abode in any one Congregation, or by secret conveyance of their malignant speeches and practices; Therefore ordaines all Ministers to take speciall notice when any such person shall come within their Parochies, and so soone as they shall know the same, that without delay they cause warnethem to appeare before the Presbyteries within which their Paroches lyes, or before the Commissioners of this Assembly appointed for publick affaires, as they shall finde most convenient; which warning the Assembly declares shall be a sufficient citation unto them: And als that all Ministers and Elders delate to the saids Judicatories *respectivè*; every such dis-affected person, although without their owne Paroch, so soone as they shall heare and be informed of them. And the Assembly ordaines the saids Commissioners not onely to proceed to Triall and Censure of such dis-affected Persons, but also to take a speciall account of the diligence of Ministers, Elders, and Presbyteries herein *respectivè*.

Act for sending Ministers to the Army.

THe Assembly understanding that Ministers are not duly sent forth to the Regiments of the Army, neither such as are sent duly relieved, which neglect falleth out oftentimes, by reason of questions among Presbyteries interested in the Regiments: Therefore for remedy hereof, thinkes it convenient that this order be kept hereafter; That a List be made of three Ministers by the Colonels, or in their absence the chiefe Officers of every Regiment, with advice and consent of the Presbytery at the Army, and sent to Presbyteries here, or if the List be of Ministers in divers Presbyteries to the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, that they may appoint one out of that List to be sent to the Regiment, to attend them for performing Ministeriall duties three Moneths: And that the relief of Ministers already sent or to be sent hereafter, shall be in the same manner. And the Assembly ordaines Ministers who shall be thus appointed by Presbyteries or the Commissioners of the Assembly *respective*, to repair to the Army with all diligence, under the pain of suspension: And humbly recommends to the Honourable Estates of Parliament, to provide some way whereby these Ministers may have due and ready payment of their allowance, from the time of their going from their charges here. And it is declared that this order shall be also kept for sending forth of Ministers to the Regiments in the second expedition.

Renovation of the Commission for the Publick affairs of the Kirk.



He General Assembly considering that the Commissioners appointed by the last Assembly upon the nineteenth day of August 1643. years, the last Session thereof to sit at *Edinburgh* for the Publick affaires of the Kirk, have not yet fully perfected that great Worke for Unity of Religion, and Uniformity of Kirk-Government in his Majesties Dominions; And that now in respect of the present condition of affaires in this Kingdome, their proceedings cannot be examined at this time: Therefore finding it necessar that the said Commission be renewed unto the Commissioners therein mentioned, and to the persons afternamed, now thought fit to be added for the better expediting of the businesse; Doe hereby appoint the persons particularly nominate in the said Commission, *viz.* Masters, *Andrew Ramsay, Alexander Henderson, Robert Douglas, William Colwill, William Bennet, George Gillespie, Iohn Oiswald, Mungo Law, Iohn Adamson, Iohn Sharp, James Sharp, William Dalgleish, Eavid Calderwood, Andrew Blackhall, James Fleming, Robert Ker, Iohn Macghie, Oliver Colt, Hugh Campbell, Adam Penman, Richard Dickson, Andrew Stevinson, Iohn Lawder, Robert Blair, Samuel Rutherford, Arthur Mortoun, Robert Traill, Frederick Carmichael, Iohn Smith, Patrick Gillespie, Iohn Duntan, Iohn Hume, Robert Knox, William Jameson, Robert Murray, Henry Guthrie,*

thrie, James Hamiltoun in Dumfreis, Bernard Sanderson, John Lewingstoun, James Bonar, Evan Camron, David Dickson, Robert Bailzie, James Cuninghame, George Young, Andrew Affleck, David Lindsay, Andrew Cant, William Douglas, Murdo Mackeinzie, Coline Mackeinzie, John Monroe, Walter Stuart Ministers; Archbald Marquesse of Argyle, William Earle Marshall, John Earle of Sutherland, Alexander Earle of Eglintoun, John Earle of Castils, Charles Earl of Dumfermeling, John Earle of Lauderdale, John Earle of Lindsay, James Earle of Queensberry, William Earle of Dalhousie, Archbald Lord Angus, James Vicount of Dudhope, John Lord Maitland, David Lord Elcho, John Lord Balmerinock, James Lord Cowper, Sir Patrick Hepburne of Wanghtoun, Sir Archbald Johnstoun of Waristoun, Sir David Hume of Wedderburne, Sir Alexander Areskine of Dun, Sir William Cockburne of Langtoun, Sir Thomas Ruthven of Frieland, Sir James Arnot of Fernie, Sir Walter Riddall of that Ilk, Sir Lodovick Houstoun of that Ilk, Sir William Carmichael Fiar of that Ilk, Master George Douglas of Bonjedburgh, Master George Winrame of Libbertoun, Laird of Bradie, Sir John Smith, James Dennistoun, Master Robert Barclay, John Rutherford, William Glendunning, John Sempil, John Kennedy, and Master Alexander Douglas Elders: And also Masters, David Dalgleish, Andrew Benner, John Moncreiff, Alexander Garse, Thomas Wilkie, James Guthrie, Henry Lewingstoun, David Drummond at Creiff, John Hay at Renfrew, John Strang, Richard Inglis, William Falconer, John Paterson, Gilbert Rosse, Richard Maitland, George Cumming, William Campbel Ministers, And William Earle of Glancairne, William Earle of Louthian, James Lord Murray of Gask, John Lord Yester, Robert Maitland, Frederick Lyon
of

of Brigtown, James Macdowell of Garthland, David Beton of Creich, Sir James Stuart Sheriffe of Buit, Sir John Weemes of Bogie, Master William Sandilands Tutor of Torphichin, Archbald Dyaserse, Laurence Henderson, James Stuart, Thomas Paterson, and Alexander Laffray Elders now added by this Assembly, to meet at Edinburgh upon the fifth day of this instant moneth of June, and upon the last Wednesday of August next, the last Wednesday of November next, and upon the last Wednesday of February next; and upon any other day, or in any other place they shall think meet: Giving and granting unto them, or any fiftene of them, there being twelve Ministers present, full power and commission to prosecute the said work of unity in Religion, and uniformity of Kirk-government in all his Majesties dominions, and to doe and performe all things particularly or generally contained in the said Commission of the preceding Assembly, or in an Act of the said Assembly upon the said 19. day of August, intituled, *A Reference to the Commission anent the Persons designed to repair to the Kingdome of England*, and to treat and determine therein, and in all other matters referred unto them by this Assembly, siclike, and as freely, as if all these were herein expressed, and as the persons nominat in the said former Commission might have done by vertue of the said Act and former Commission at any time by-gone, and with as ample power as any Commission of former Generall Assemblies hath had, or been in use of before, they being alwayes comptable and censurable for their whole proceedings hereintill by the next Generall Assembly.

Renovation of the Commission granted to
the Persons appointed to repair to the
Kingdome of England.



The Generall Assembly, finding that
the great Work of unity in Religi-
on, and uniformity of Kirk-govern-
ment in all his Majesties Domini-
ons is not yet perfected, Do there-
fore renew the Commission gran-
ted for that effect by the preceding
Assembly, unto the Persons ap-
pointed to repaire to the Kingdome of *England* upon
the 19. day of August 1643. in the last Session thereof,
Giving and granting to the Persons therein mentio-
ned, the same power, to doe all and every thing parti-
cularly or generally contained in the said Commission,
in the same manner, and as fully, as if the same were
herein expressed, and as they might have done at any
time by-gone by vertue of the former Commission.

The

The Assemblies answer to the Presbyterie which is with the Armie.

Reverend and loving Brethren in the LORD.



WE received yours of the 17. and 20. of May, and were much refreshed with the knowledge you gave unto us therein, of your sense of our condition here, and of the Lords dealing with your selves there in your straits and difficulties: We rejoyce exceedingly to see you make such a blessed use of the Lords delays, for your further Humiliation and Dependence upon him: That Sanctuary, your Enemies, and the Enemies of your GOD hath taken, shall not save them: You have found by experience in your marches and maintenance, that events are not ordered by the propositions of men, but by the Providence and purpose of GOD. There is a time for every purpose under Heaven, and the Cup of the Amorites must be filled: Which being now full of every abomination, yea of the blood of the Saints, the cry whereof cannot but be heard in Heaven, and answered on Earth, presageth no lesse to us, than that the Lords time of his deliverance of his owne, and destruction of his Enemies draweth near.

We are not unsensible of your present estate, and by the Lords grace shall be carefull, both here and with our Congregations at home, to make all take the same to heart. As for our condition here remembred with such pious affection by you, we doubt not but ye have heard

heard what the Lord hath done for us; these happy beginnings of the Lords scattering our unnaturall Enemies in the North, gives us confidence of his assistance in the midst of difficulties against these that assault us in the South: It is nothing with the Lord to help whether with many, or with them that have no power.

The security of this Nation indeed is great, it is our part to blow the Trumpet to give warning to the People, and to rouse them from that fearfull condition which threatneth so much desertion. And to this end we have enjoyned a solemne Fast, the causes whereof being more particularly considered by our Commissioners here, will no question be sent unto you, that if the Lord please, you may joyn with us therein that action.

We have set downe an order to be kept hereafter, for sending Ministers unto the Army, which the Clerke will send herewith unto you. Now the Lord our God, in whose Name his people goe forth against his Enemies, helpe and assist them, and cover their heads in the Day of Battell, and be their Refuge; and blesse your travels and endeavours, for the good of their soules and his owne glory.

Edinburgh, 3. June

1644.

*Subscribed in name of the
Generall Assembly by
the Moderator.*

*The Letter from the Synod of Divines in the Kirke of
England, to the Generall Assembly.*

*Right Honourable, right Reverend, and dearly beloved Bre-
thren in J E S U S C H R I S T.*



He blessing and comfort of that inviolable Uni-
on which our gracious GOD hath vouchsafed
to both Churches and Nations, gave us oppor-
tunity the last year, to breath out some of our
sighs into your compassionate bosomes : And
such have been the soundings of your bowels, as have offer-
red violence to Heaven by your effectuall fervent prayers, and
brought many sweet refreshings to our languishing spirits by
your pious and comfortable Letters, in answer to ours.

This makes us studious of all means of acknowledging your
tender Sympathie, and of laying hold on all opportunities of
repairing again to the same streams of consolation : for which
end, as we cannot but confesse, that in the midst of those boy-
sterous waves wherein we have been daily tossed, we have met
with many gracious and unexpected encouragements : so wee
must needs renew our former mournings, and rend our hearts
afresh unto you with greatest instance for all the assistance that
your Prayers, Tears, Learning, Piety, and Largeness of heart
can possibly contribute to your poore afflicted and still con-
flicting Brethren : And this we the rather beg of you, who, ha-
ving been first in the furnace of affliction, and are come out of
great tribulation, are meekest to commiserate, and best able to
comfort others in any trouble, by the comforts wherewith you
your selves have been comforted of GOD.

It was in our desires to have presented to your Venerable
Assembly, some of our dearest respects in writing, by that emi-

nently learned and much honoured Commissioner of yours, the Lord Waristoun : But his departure hence was so sudden to us, and unexpected by us, that we could not have time (as his Lordship can informe you) to tender by him such a testimony of our Brotherly and intimate affections, as may in some measure suite with your manifold and most affectionate expressions towards us, when our sighings were many, and our hearts faint : For such hath beene your love, that no waters can quench it, and such the undertakings of the whole Kingdome of Scotland, through your furtherance, that wee already begin to reape the fruits of all that Piety, Prudence, and Valour, which at this day render your Nation worthily renowned in the Christian World ; and us, exceedingly strained and restless in our selves, untill GOD please to open a way for our endeavours, to make some more answerable returns.

Toward this, our thoughts and hopes were to have made, ere now, some proceedings of our Assembly legible in yours. But such are the continued distractions which lye upon our spirits, by meanes of the sad and bleeding condition of this Kingdome, as have cast us much behinde our owne expectations, and hindred that expedition which the necessities of this Nation, and the desires of our Brethren abroad, doe earnestly call for at our hands.

Sometimes through GODS goodnesse wee have a prosperous Gale : Sometimes againe, we saile like *Paul* and his company, *very slowly many dayes*. And even then, when we draw near *the faire havens*, some contrary Windes put us out into the Deep again. We walk in paths that have hitherto beene untrodden by any Assembly in this Church : Wee therefore are inforced to spend more time in our inquiries, and in seeking of GOD a right way for us, that at length we may put into that high way, the way of holinesse, wherein Wayfaring men, though fools, shall not erre. And we will wait upon our GOD

(be-

(before whom we have been this Day humbling of our Souls) untill he lead us into all these Truths which we seeke after, and wee shall labour to be yet more vile in our owne eyes, as finding by experience that it is not in man to direct his way.

Those Winds which for a while doe trouble the Aire, do withall purge and refine it: And our trust is that through the most wise Providence and blessing of GOD, the Truth by our so long continued agitations, will bee better cleared among us, and so our service will prove more acceptable to all the Churches of Christ; but more especially to you, while we have an intensitive eye to our peculiar Protestation, and to that publicke Sacred Covenant entred into by both the Kingdomes, for Uniformity in all his Majesties Dominions.

Which Work we carry on (against what ever difficulties are cast in our way) with more ease and comfort, by the great sedulity and seasonable assistance wee daily receive from your Noble and Reverend Commissioners sitting among us: Their Prudence will (we doubt not) sufficiently furnish you with more particular information touching our affairs: And here, we cannot but acknowledge that the assiduous presence of these our learned and highly-esteemed Brethren among us, and their free and faithfull contributing of their counsels to us, doe oblige us much to a double duty, the one of Thanks which we now heartily render to you, for sending to us such excellent Helpers; the other of Request which we earnestly make for their continuance with us, untill the Work be brought up to the finishing Cubite.

Now, the Great Master-Builder (without whose Almighty concurrence, the Builders labour but in vaine) accomplish and perfect all his own glorious Worke in your hands, and in ours also, to his own Glory, the peace and edification of all the

Churches, and the comfort of our selves over all our travels and sufferings.

*Westminster, May 17.
1644.*

*Your most affectionate Brethren and
servants in the LORD, by the
direction, and in the Name of
this whole Assembly,*

WILLIAM TWISSE, Prolocutor.
CORNELIUS BURGESS, Assessor.
HENRY ROBROUGH, Scriba.
ADONIRAM BYFIELD, Scriba.

The Generall Assemblies Answer, to the right Reverend the Assembly of Divines in the Kirk of England.

*Right Honourable, right Reverend, and most dearly
beloved in our LORD,*



We do thankfully acknowledge your respectfull remembrance of us by your Letters at all occasions, and not a little rejoyce to see that happie correspondence and Christian communion so sweetly entertained amongst us, which is so acceptable in the sight of the Lord, so pleasant and profitable, especially when kept and entertained betwixt Kirks and Kingdomes about affairs of highest and most publick concernment and interest: We have nothing more in our desires than to entertain that harmonious correspondence, that Christian sympathie

pathie and compassion, that sounding and resounding of bowels, which well becometh Kirks and Nations, united by a solemn League and sacred Covenant; for mutuall endeavours, by all lawfull meanes, to a further unitie in that Faith once delivered to the Saints, and greater Uniformity in Divine Worship, Discipline, and Government, according to the Paterne.

The case and condition of your bleeding Kingdom is no lesse sensible to us, than if our selves were in the same affliction with you; but we trust all is working to your best, and to our Lords glory: That some of you hes suffered, it is to try you, purge you, and make you white: If the Lord by those means be with that reformation of his Ordinances, bringing also alongst that other Reformation of hearts and lives, should it not be welcomed with all joy, although it be upon the expence of blood and lives? The Lord will turn the by-gone rage of Man to his glory and your spirituall good, and the remnant of rage will he restraine. The Lord delivereth his owne by degrees, *he is with them in trouble, and delivereth them, and honoureth them*; He who hath been sensibly with you hitherto, and upholden you in your trouble, will we trust, yet deliver you, and honour you: The more ye sow in teares, the greater shall be your harvest of peace and joy, when the Lord, according to the dayes wherein he hath afflicted you, and the yeares wherein ye have seen evill, shall make you glad, and his Work to appeare unto you, and his glory unto your children. and the beautie of the Lord your God to be upon you, and shall establish the worke of your hands; yea, even establish the work of your hands.

We should prove both unthankfull to God, and unfaithfull to men, did we not hold out unto you the Lords gracious and powerfull dealing with us in the like condition, and comfort you with the consolations wherewith we our selves have been comforted: We were involved in the like difficulties; we had the strong opposition of highest Authority set over two powerfull

Kingdomes, beside this of ours; and the unhappy providence of our wickedly-wise and wary Prelates, had done what in them lay, to make the Ministry of this Land sworn Enemies to the intended Reformation: So that we walked in a very wilderness, in a labyrinth, and as upon deep waters, wherein not onely did our feet lose footing, but also our eyes all discovering or discerning of any ground; yea, we were ready to lose our selves: Yet the Lord hath graciously rid us, and recovered us out of all these difficulties, and set our feet upon a rock, and ordered our goings. The experience we have had in our own persons, affordeth us confidence and hope concerning your affaires; and we trust this hope shall not be disappointed; it is our duty to hope upon experience, and it is the Lords word and promise, that such an hope shall not be ashamed. It cannot choose but beget confidence in you, when ye shall consider, that ye have seene before your eyes your neighbouring Ship of this Kirke and Kingdome, having (as it were) looked from your side, in the like or self-same storme, notwithstanding all tossing of windes and waves, yet (*not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord of hosts*) to have arrived safe and sound to the Port and Harberie; yea, and to have dared to put out again unto the storm, to contribute her weak endeavours for your help.

We acknowledge your impediments to be great and many; the sufferings of your Brethren, the People of GOD, cannot choose but both damp your spirits, and divide your thoughts: Your walking in an untroden and unknown way, must put you (though never so willing to go on speedily, yet) to take time and leisure to ask for the right way; and ye want not the opposition of some amongst your selves, to whom notwithstanding we trust the Lord will reveale his truth in his owne time. Nevertheless (much honoured and dear Brethren) go on courageously against the stream of all opposition; every Mountain

in the way of *Zerubbabel*, the Lord shall make plain: and as many of you as are perfect, be thus minded, that forgetting the things that are behinde, and looking to the things that are before, you presse hard towards the mark, as having before you, not onely the prize of the high calling and recompence of reward, but also at the end of this race, these two precious Pearls, and inestimable Jewels of Truth and Unity, and all the Reformed Churches beholding and looking on, not only as witnesses, but also being ready to congratulate and embrace you.

We were greatly refreshed to heare by Letters from our Commissioners there with you, and by a more particular relation from the Lord *Watkinson* now with us, of your praiseworthy proceedings; and of the great good things the Lord hath wrought among you, and for you: Shall it seem a small thing in our eyes, that the Covenant (the foundation of the whole Work) is taken? That that Antichristian Prelacy with all the train thereof is extirpated? That the door of a right entrie unto faithfull Shepherds is opened by you; many corruptions, as Altars, Images, and other Monuments of Idolatry and Superstition removed, defaced and abolished; the Service-Book in many places forsaken; and plaine and powerfull preaching set up; the great Organs at *Pauls* and *Peters* taken down; That the Royall Chappell is purged and reformed, Sacraments more sincerely administrate, according to the paterne in the Mount; That some Colledges, the Seminaries of your Kirk, are planted with able and sincere Professors? That the good hand of GOD hath called and kept together so many pious, grave and learned Divines for so long a time, and disposed their hearts to search his Truth by their frequent Humiliations, continuall Prayers, and learned and peaceable debates? Should not all and each one of these stir up our souls to blesse the Lord, and render both you and us confident, that he who begun the good Work, will perfect it, and put the Cope-stone upon it; That the

the beauty of a perfected Worke may shine to all Nations, and we may say and shout, *Grace, Grace, unto it*; that the time may be when full liberty & leasure shall be to all the Builders of the House of GOD, to give themselves with both their hands to the building up and edifying the people of GOD in these things that belong to life and Godlinesse, to the making of them wise to salvation, and thoroughly furnished to every good worke, and when the Lord shall delight to dwell more familiarly, and to worke more powerfully in, and by his thoroughly purified ordinances: That you afflicted and tossed with tempests and not comforted, shall have your stones laid with fair Colours, your foundations with Saphires, your Children shall be taught of GOD, and shall have great peace, and no Weapon framed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that riseth against you in Judgement shall be condemned; That the Lord will awake as in the ancient dayes, as in the generation of old; That the Redeemed of the Lord shall come unto Zion with singing, and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

And as we are confident that the Lord who heareth Prayer, and hath promised to guide his servants into all truth, will bring your labours to a comfortable conclusion: So do all the Reformed Kirks, and the Kirk of *Scotland* above all others extreamly long for the taste of the fruits of your pious labours and continuall pains: And so much the more, that we have suspended some materiall determinations amongst our selves, upon expectation of Uniformity; and that in the meane time so many scandalous Papers come to our view, and to the hands of the People here, for liberty of conscience, toleration of Sects, and such Practices as are contrary to the Doctrine, Government, and Peace of all the Reformed Kirks. For stopping & suppressing whereof, as we doubt not, but your Wisedome and the Authority of the Honourable Houses of Parliament will use some more effectually means; So do we hope that your determinations

tions shall carry such evidence of Divine Truth, and demonstration of the Spirit, that those unhappy Clouds of darknesse shall be so scattered, that they shall be no more gathered nor appeare hereafter, to the dishonour of God, the prejudice of his Truth, and the scandalizing of so many Souls for which Christ hath dyed.

We doe with hearty thankfulnessse resent all the kindnesse and respect you have shown to our Commissioners, and your high esteem of them in love for the Works sake; Although their presence here would be very comfortable unto us, very steedable to the publicke, and necessar in respect of their great and important particular charges and stations; yet doe we willingly dispense with all, yea nothing shall be too dear unto us, so that this Work be finished with joy, and *Jerusalem made the glory and praise of the whole Earth: Because of the house of the Lord our God, we will seeke her good: For our Brethren and Companions sake, we will now say, Peace be within her Walls, prosperity within her Palaces.*

Edinburgh 4. June
1644.


*Subscribed in name of the Generall
Assembly of the Kirke of Scotland,
by the moderator of the Assembly,
and Clerk.*

J. BONAR Moderator.

A. KER.

*The Assemblies Letter to the Kirks in
the Netherlands.*

Fratres in Domino plurimum colendi,

 *Ue anno superiore Ecclesiarum Zelandicarum nomine, misse sunt ad nos Literæ, ut eas communis totius Ecclesiæ vestræ Belgicæ voluntatis testes fuisse interpretaremur, effecit benevolentia vestra tot tantisq; officiis nobis spectata : quam sententiam nobis confirmarunt ea quæ copiosè clarissimus Eques D. Archibaldus Ionstonus Varistonus in foro supremo Iudex, à reliquis tum Ordinum tum Ecclesiæ hujus Regni Delegatis Londino non ita pridem remissus, in hac ipsa Synodo Nationali de eximio vestro erga nos studio commemoravit : præsertim quantâ fide, quàm sollicitâ diligentia nostram, vel Domini porius nostri Jesu Christi causam, quæ nunc Londini agitur & promoveritis, & promoveri etiamnum satagatis. Quo in negotio, ex iis, quorum ab eo recitata audivimus nomina, de propensa reliquorum voluntate & curâ, ut conciliandæ ecclesiarum Britanicarum unionis feliciter suscepta consilia, vestrâ ope & operâ prosperum mature sortiantur exitum, minime obscura fecimus indicia. Sunt hæc tam illustria benevolentie vestræ testimonia, & in omnium bonorum oculis adeo*

perspicua, ut eorum memoriam nulla unquam delere poterint oblivia. Laboris autem & jam impensis & porro suscepti ad controversias in Synodo Londinensi suborientes sollicitè expediendas & decidendas nequando poeniteat, ex eo quem per divinam jam benedictionem fructum cepistis, optima quæq; in posterum sperare consentaneum est.

Huic tam honorifica beneficiorum vestrorum commemorationi à D. Varistonio factæ super venerunt ex partibus Hiberniæ aquilonaribus Literæ multorum Chirographis subsignatæ; Qui singularis gratiæ in illam Ecclesiam divinitus effusæ, ex quo tempore in societatem fœderis trium unitorum sub Rege nostro Regnorum admissi sunt, mentione facta, hujus inquirunt divinæ benedictiones amplissimum nuper habuimus testimonium, Sanctorum in Belgio liberalitatem eximiam; qui nobis, ignotis licet & peregrinis, fratres se nostri amantiissimos, & malorum nostrorum sensu tenerrimo compunctos apertè demonstrarunt. Pauculos enim nos gladio superistites, & fame propediem interituros, omnibus extremis circumventos, in ipso articulo sublevarunt: nec tantum oratione ad consolationem composita nobis animos confirmarunt, hortantes ut humiliter incedentes Deum liberatorem expectemus, qui non nisi ad breve tempus faciem suam à domo Iacob abscondere solet, sed subsidio insuper opulento cum anno, tum aliarum rerum ad nostram in tantis angustiis relaxationem & solatium necessariarum, copiose nos re-

“*focillârunt, Tantam munificen-
 “tiam cum supplices à Deo
 “contendimus, ut septuplam ipsis in sinum rependat, tum
 “demissè vos etiam atq; etiam rogamus, ut in tanti bene-
 “ficii agnitione Ecclesiis Belgicis, nobiscum gratias agatis.
 Hec illi. In quo quidem officio si isti defimus, in nos pari-
 ter & illos graviter peccemus.*

*Agnoscamus igitur illustrissimorum & potentissimorum
 Hollandiæ, Zelandiæ, aliorumq; Ordinum Belgicorum
 tam eximiam beneficentiam : quibus non conniventibus
 modo & permittentibus, (quod ipsum non vulgare benefi-
 cium habendum esset) s. d. auctoribus etiam, modumque &
 rationem præscribentibus, exemplo quoque præeuntibus, in
 subsidium fratrum nostrorum Hibernensium collecta per
 Ecclesias facta ad ipsos maturè deportata sit: Agnoscamus
 piorum in iisdem Ecclesiis Belgicis tam expromptâ volun-
 tatem & liberalitatem agnoscamus tantum beneficium non
 in ipsos magis fratres nostros, quàm in illorum persona in
 nosmetipsos esse collatum : Vosque (fratres Reverendi)
 obnixè rogatos volumus, ut quem admodum nos ad omnem
 grati animi significationem prompti semper erimus, ita quâ
 vobis potissimum ratione commodum videbitur, illustrissi-
 mis & potentissimis Ordinibus nostro nomine gratias a-
 gatis : populo autem Christiano cura vestra commisso tum
 publicè uni verso, tum privatim singulis, ut occasio rulerit,
 demonstretis quàm honorificè de ipsis sentiamus, & quanti
 faciamus tam eximiam benevolentiam & charitatem, quâ*

in Ecclesiarum Hibernicarum consolatione viscera nostra
 refocillaverunt. Quæ autem vestra fuerint partes, fratres
 charissimi, quàm pio studio & labore, quàm assiduâ dili-
 gentiâ tanta obatici sèmen in segetem & maturam tan-
 dem in fœm proppereritis, cum nos libentes agnoscimus,
 tum res ipsa loquitur, & fructus optimus abundè testatur.
 Inprimis autem quod caput est, tantæ gratiæ authorem &
 largiorem nos unâ cum Ecclesiis Hibernicis laudamus &
 celebramus: comprecantes ut in vos universos, in Eccle-
 sias à Domino vobis commissas, in illustrissimos Belgii
 vestri Ordines Spiritum suum copiosè effundat, ut quem-
 admodum in Rep. vestrà adversus hostem potentissimum
 defendendâ, & inter tantas bellorum moles indies ampli-
 ficandâ, in Evangelii luce & veritate incontaminatâ con-
 tra inferorum portas in vestris Ecclesiis propugnandâ,
 atque inde latius propagandâ, immensa Dei vobis excu-
 banti potentia, multiformis sapientia, & eximia benefi-
 centia, per univèrsam terrarum orbem hætenus celebrata
 est; ita bonis omnibus vos deinceps cumulare pergat idem
 fons omnis tonitatis, ut frementibus religionis et liber-
 tatis vestræ hostibus, sapientiæ et optimarum artium jux-
 ta ac armorum triumphorumque gloriâ inter nobilissimas
 gentes Resp. vestra fœderata quotidie magis emineat, Ec-
 clesia sacrorum puritate, et cœlestis veritatis splendore
 perspicua resulgeat; eoque prosperè vobis cedant vestra
 prudentissima et saluberrima consilia, quibus certissimum

ad felicitatem publicam compendium vos capeffere demon-
 ſtratis, nec vobis tantum conſulitis, ſed de vicinis etiam
 Eccleſiis ſoliciti, quâ operâ, quâ conſilio opibusque veſtris
 eas ſublevatis & confirmatis omnes, & quaſi de ſpecula
 univerſis proſpicientes de periculis imminentibus commo-
 nefacitis, & ad ruinam ab hoſtibus doleſe machinatam
 mature præcavendam armatis:

Ergo quod anno ſuperiori, veluti ſigno dato, Refor-
 matas omnes Eccleſias, miſſis ex Zelandia literis commo-
 nuiftis, ut cum impoſtores, Ieſu nomen impudenter emen-
 titi, cæterique Antichriſti ſatellites, quo ſecurius in popu-
 lum erroribus Pontificiis fascinatum graſſari, & puriores
 Chriſti Eccleſias funditus extirpare queant, artiſſimâ
 conjuratione ſociati ad impia conſilia patranda ſeſe accin-
 xerunt; Ita Eccleſiæ quoque Reformatae ſine mora conſilia
 in medium alacriter conferant, & animos ac vires conjun-
 gant, ut perniciem ſibi omnibus intentatam in hoſtium ca-
 pita retorqueant: niſe fecerint, tam pudende ignavia excu-
 ſatione apud poſteritatem carituri, conſilium non minùs
 prudens & ſidum, quam felix & ſalutare libenter & tunc
 agnovimus & nunc ipſo etiam eventu comprobamus.

Principio autem ad hoc conſequendum neceſſarium vi-
 detur, ut ſine morâ convolemus omnes ad Deum noſtrum
 clementiſſimum qui poſtquam Eccleſiarum Reformatarum
 mores minime reformatos multis annis longanimitate ſua
 pertuliſſet, ferulam primùm, mox etiam gladium vibra-

tum interminatus, tandem rubentem & madidum suorumque sanguine calentem & spumantem per regiones plurimas jam diu circumtulit; in nos denique reliquos nunc intentat, nisi mature respuerimus, & de domo ipsius amplius purgandâ, de gratiâ Domini nostri Iesu Christi plaris faciendâ, de cultu Dei ipsiusque institutis religiosus habendis, de Sabbatho ejus sanctificando, à quo nimium oculos nostros avertimus, et de moribus ad pietatis normam componendis magis serio quàm hactenus à nobis factum est, nobiscum statuentes cum populo Dei sub Nehemia, Iosia, reliquisque piis Gubernatoribus, religioso fœdere percusso, tanquam firmissimo vinculo Deo obstricti, nos inter nos arctius adversus hostes univerimus, ut avertat Deus jam fumantem et capitibus nostris imminentem iram, quam peccata nostra plurima et maxima adversus nos provocârunt et accenderunt.

Non tantum nobis deferimus, nondum eos renovato cum Deo fœdere, et votis nuncupatis dignos edidimus fructus, ut nostrum exemplum vobis proponere libeat: Quod tamen experti sumus, de Dei erga nos gratiâ, quod gratitudo erga Deum, quod gloria ipsius à nobis flagitat, celare non audemus. Quæcunque nostra malè merita sunt in conspectu Dei et hominum; certè ex quo die nos de religioso fœdere cum Deo et inter nos ineundo cogitavimus, à portis inferorum revocari, et res nostra omnes in Deum

nostrum necessariò conjecto melius habere coeperunt, et feliciore hæcenus successu processerunt: Quod si de fœderis hujusmodi religiosa societate cœundà quod rerum vestrarum et Religionis in Britannia nostra ex fœdere nuper inito perpurgandæ et stabiliendæ commodo fieri possit) vestræ prudentiæ visum fuerit cogitare, et ex consilio eorum quorum interest statuere, ac cum aliis Reformatis Ecclesiis agere (pro eâ quâ apud omnes valeis gratiâ) ut eandem vobiscum ineant rationem, non dubium est, per Domini ac Dei nostri benignissimi Iesu Christi in Ecclesias suas gratiam, fore, ut non modo, quod certissimum ad versus impendentia mala perfugium anno superiore missis ex Zelandia iiteris denunciastis, Ecclesiæ Reformatæ arctioris societatis vinculo inter se unitæ ad hostium conatus impetusque frangendos corroborarentur et confirmentur: sed disjecti etiam lapides Domus Dei per Germaniam ex rudere et cineribus rediviui recolligantur, ac gloriosum Domini nostri Templum ibidem instauretur: et purioris Religionis Professores in istis Ecclesiis, per reppescientiam ad eum qui percussit eos, reversi, et quod nullis caneſcat sæculis fœdere, Domino nobiscum coadunati, malis, sub quorum pondere tot annos gemiscunt, tandem subleventur. Qui dies longè optatissimus si per Dei gratiam semel illuxerit; de consiliorum communionem inter Reformatarum Ecclesiarum Synodos per Legatos et Literas conciliandâ iniri possit ratio, per quam Ecclesiæ hostes corumpantur, hæses

opprimantur, & schismata resarciantur, pax cum Deo & inter Ecclesias firma conservetur, & gloriosum Dei opus in Evangelio per orbem terrarum propagando, & Antichristi regno abolendo promoveatur. Quod ut optandum, et sperandum, piis et prudentibus vestris meditationibus, ut bonum semen fecundissimo solo commendamus.

Edinburgi, 4. Iunii
1644.

Vestrae Dignitati & Fraternitati addictissimi, Pastores & Seniores Nationalis Synodi Scoticanæ, & nostro omnium nomine ac mandato

DIRECT.

IA. BONAR Moderator.

Ecclesiis Dei, quæ sunt in unitis
Hollandiæ, Zelandiæ ali-
isque fœderati Belgii Pro-
vinciis.

F

Ordinance


Ordinance concerning Bursars.

THe Assembly understanding that the overture for maintaining Bursars, in the Assembly holden in the yeare 1641. upon the 7 of August, Sess. 15. is never yet put in practice : Do therefore Ordain Presbyteries to put the same in practice with all diligence, and to make account thereof to the next Assembly.

Ordinance for up-lifting and imploying Penalties contained in Acts of Parliament, upon pious uses.

THe Assembly understanding that the executing of some laudable Acts of Parliament, made against Non-Communicants and Excommunicate persons, and of divers other Acts containing pecuniall pains for restraining of Vice, and advancing Piety, is much neglected by the slownesse of Presbyteries and Ministers, in seeking Execution thereof: Therefore ordains Presbyteries and Ministers *respectively*, to be diligent hereafter by all means, in prosecuting full and exact Execution of all such Acts of Parliament, for lifting the said Penalties contained in the same, and for faithfull imployment thereof, upon pious uses and that every Presbytery report their diligence herein yearly to Generall Assemblies.

An overture concerning Promises of Marriage made by Minors, to those with whom they have committed Fornication.

ORsameikle as it is found by experience, that some young men being put to Colledges by their wel-affected Parents, that they may be instructed in the knowledge of Arts and Sciences, to the intent they may be more able for publicke Employments in the Ecclesiastick and Civill state, that the said Children hes committed fornication: And the Woman and her friends hes seduced the foresaid Schollers being minors, to make promise of Marriage to the party with whom they have committed Fornication; And thereupon intends to get the benefite of Marriage with the said young men, not only without the consent of their Parents, but to their great grieve, and to the great appearance of the ruine and overthrow of their estate: Which may be the case of Noblemen and Gentlemens children, as well as of these of other estates and degrees within the Kingdome. Wherefore if the Assembly thinke it expedient, it would be declared that all such promises be made null and of none effect, especially where the maker of the promise is Minor, and not willing to observe the samine, because his Parents will not consent, but oppose and contradict, threatning to make him lose not only his favour, but both blessing and birth-right. This Ordinance shall not only be very expedient for many good civill causes, but is very consonant and agreeable to the Word of God, and will be very comfortable to many Godly Parents, who otherwise may be disap-
F 2 pointed

pointed of their pious intentions, and have the comfort they expected, turned to an heavy and grievous crosse.

The Generall Assembly thinks it convenient at this time, to delay any determination in the matter above-written untill the next Assembly, That in the meane time every Presbyterie may take the same to their serious consideration, and report their judgements to the Assembly.

Ad concerning dissenting voices in Presbyteries and Synods.



THe Assembly thinkes it necessar, if any Member of Presbyteries or Synods shall finde in matters depending before them, that the Moderator shall refuse to put any thing of Importance to voices; Or if they finde any thing carried by plurality of voices to any determination which they conceive to be contrary to the Word of God, the Acts of Assembly, or to the received order of this Kirk: That in either of these cases they urge their dissent to be marked in the Register: And if that be refused, that they protest as they would desire to be free of common censure with the rest: And the Assembly declares the dissenters to be censurable, if their dissent shall be found otherwise nor they conceived.

Ad

The Generall Assembly
Act concerning the Election of a Moderator in Provinciall Assemblies.

THe Generall Assembly understanding that some Provinciall Assemblies in choosing their Moderator, tye themselves to these Persons who have been before named & designed in particular Presbyteries, which is against the liberty of the Provinciall Assembly: Therefore discharges Presbyteries to make any such nomination hereafter; And ordain Provincials in their meeting, to elect their Moderator, and to make their own List for that effect without any such prælimination.

Act for keeping of the Fast by the Congregations in the Towne where the Assembly holds.

THe Assembly judge it most necessar and comely, seeing the first day of the meeting of Generall Assemblies, is by the laudable practice of this Kirk a day of Fasting and Humiliation, for craving the Lords blessing to that Meeting: That not only the Members of the Assembly, but that all the Congregations also of the Town where the Assembly holds be so exercised: And that publick worship be in all the Kirks thereof that day for that effect.

THe Generall Assembly appoints the meeting of the next Assembly, to be upon the last Thursday of May, in the year 1645.

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Edenburg, 1644. not Printed.



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ting Overtures, Acts, &c. to the Parliament. Ib.

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Ref. of Denmures Bill.

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Committee to consider some Overtures concerning Universities and
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Dick, and M. John Dick the next three Moneths; and to M. John
Levingstoun, and M. Thomas Wylie for the last 3 Moneths, to re-
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sons appointed for that employment by the preceding Assembly. Ib.

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